



MIDDLESEX COUNTY OFFICE OF PARKS AND RECREATION

RULES AND REGULATIONS

GOVERNING THE USE OF COUNTY PARKS AS ADOPTED BY
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

RESOLUTION # 99-1441 8-19-99

RESOLUTION # 03-503 4-8-03

RESOLUTION # 04-1628 9-13-04

RESOLUTION # 15-274-R 2-19-15

I. DEFINITIONS

AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLES - means vehicles of the fire department, police vehicles and such; ambulances and other vehicles approved by the Director when operated in response to an emergency.

ANIMALS - includes cats, dogs, horses, any fowl or birds - any living creatures within jurisdiction of the park.

BICYCLE PATH - any path maintained for self-propelled vehicles; no motorized bikes.

BRIDLEPATH - any path maintained for equestrians; no motorized vehicles.

DIRECTOR - Title of the leading official overseeing all activities and operations of the Middlesex County Office of Parks and Recreation.

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES - includes every type of motor driven vehicles used for commercial purposes on the highways; or any omnibus or vehicle adapted for more than 9 passengers, or engaged in the carrying of any merchandise, or upon which is displayed for advertising purpose any writing, symbol, flag, banner, target, sign, placard, etc.

COOKING APPARATUS - refers to any fixed or portable grill, barbeque pit, hibachi, stove or similar cooking device, whether privately owned or a fixture in a county park.

CROSSING - any crossing, whether marked by a pavement or otherwise; the extension of any sidewalk space across any intersecting drive, street, highway or bridle path.

CURB - any boundary of any street, road, avenue, boulevard, drive or bridle path, whether or not marked by a curbstone.

DRIVE - shall mean any road, avenue, drive or boulevard maintained by the Office of Parks and Recreation for vehicular use, including the parts thereof under or over any bridge.

DRIVER-OPERATOR - any person, who propels, operates or is in charge of a vehicle.

ELECTRIC-POWERED MOBILITY DEVICE - any mobility device powered by batteries, including electronic personal assistance mobility devices (EPAMDs), such as the Segway®PT, electric-assisted bicycles and the following electric-powered devices: foot scooters, tracked mobility chairs or tricycles that are designed for locomotion by single individual with a mobility disability.

GRILL READY - refers to meat, fish, or poultry that is either prepackaged or

prepared prior to being brought to any county park that is in sizes or portions suitable for placing directly on a cooking apparatus without the necessity for any further trimming, shaping, cutting, washing or forming.

GROUP - a number of individuals considered together for the purpose of an activity within a County Park.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY PARKLAND - Including Park System, Recreation Areas, Conservation Areas, Greenways, Preserves, Natural Areas and Open Space - shall mean all the real property situated in Middlesex County or adjacent counties acquired by or under the jurisdiction and care of the Middlesex County Office of Parks and Recreation, or which may be hereafter acquired by it or come under its jurisdiction.

MOTOR VEHICLE - shall mean and include all vehicles propelled other than by muscular power, and shall also include all motor operated vehicles of the bicycle or tricycle type.

OFF ROAD VEHICLES - any powered vehicles designed for or capable of cross country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain which would include, but not be limited to, such vehicles as four wheel drive, motorcycle, snowmobile, amphibious or air cushion vehicles; except those vehicles utilized for fire, emergency or law enforcement purposes and any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the Office of Parks and Recreation.

OFFICIAL TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES - shall mean all signs, signal marking and devices placed or erected by authority of the chairman or other official having jurisdiction for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic.

PARK RANGERS OR OFFICERS - any person employed by the Middlesex County Office of Parks and Recreation as a Park Ranger or Special Officer or any municipal or State Police Officer.

PARKING PLACE - any part of any drive or space designated as a place for the standing of vehicles.

PATH - shall mean any footpath, walk or any path maintained for pedestrians.

PERMIT - any written license issued by or under the authority of the Office of Parks and Recreation, permitting the performance of a specified act or acts.

PERSON - any person, corporation, company, association, joint stock association, firm or co-partnership.

PRIVATE/SERVICE ROAD OR DRIVE – shall mean every road, lane or driveway not open to use of the public in general.

RIGHT OF WAY - means the privilege of the immediate use of the roadway, drive, and path.

RUBBISH – any refuse matter that includes ashes, dross, cinders, shell, paper, dirt, sand, oil, grease, clay, loam, stone or building materials, brush, stumps, hay, straw, oats, sawdust, shavings, or manufacturing, trade or household waste, old iron or other metals or objects made therefrom, or sick, diseased, or dead animals, organic refuse or any other offensive matter, including swill, brine, offal, fecal matter, or garbage.

SAFETY ZONE – shall mean any space (within a drive) established for pedestrians

STOPPING OR STANDING – when prohibited means any cessation of movement of a vehicle occupied, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic – including horses.

TRAFFIC – means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals; vehicles, either singly or together, while in the confines of the Park jurisdiction.

VEHICLE – any conveyance (except by baby carriage) including motor vehicles, bicycles, tricycles, sleds, sleighs, pushcarts or vehicles propelled by other than muscular power – also any horse (trailers).

II. TERRITORIAL SCOPE

All Middlesex County Office of Parks and Recreation Resolutions shall be effective within all Middlesex County Parkland of the Middlesex County Park System and regulate the use thereof by all persons.

III. INTOXICANTS/ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1. No person shall be permitted within Middlesex County Parkland under the influence of intoxicating beverages, drugs or narcotics. All alcoholic beverages other than wine and beer are prohibited in any Middlesex County Parkland, and the consumption of wine and beer requires a permit issued by the Office of Parks and Recreation and is only to be used in a designated picnic area where food is consumed.

IV. GROUP USE/MEETINGS/EXHIBITIONS

1. No group shall use Middlesex County Parkland without first obtaining a group use permit. Group use shall be limited to designated areas. Adult supervision of children's groups is required at all times.

2. Groups that wish to picnic in a reservable area will be required to obtain a permit. Open grove areas are for small group picnics consisting of less than 100 persons and do not require a permit. There will be no alcohol permits issued for picnics using the open grove areas.

3. No persons shall call or hold any meetings, walks, foot races, charitable or special events or give any concert or public entertainment of any kind within Middlesex County Parkland without first having obtained written permission in advance from The Director of County Parks and Recreation no later than one (1) month before the proposed date of use.

4. No person shall use loudspeakers, public address systems or amplifiers within any Middlesex County Parkland without first having obtained written permission in advance from The Director of County Parks and Recreation. Nor shall any portable radio, tape player, compact disc player or musical instrument be played in such a manner as to create a nuisance.

5. Public assemblies, meetings, demonstrations, religious activities, the sale and distribution of printed matter, and other public expressions of views conducted under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and the State of New Jersey upon the lands of the Middlesex County Park System are permitted provided that a permit has been issued by the Director of Parks and Recreation or duly designated representative.

To ensure public safety and the protection of park resources and values and to avoid assigning the same location and time to two or more activities, the Park System may manage these activities by regulating the time, location, number of participants, use of facilities, and number and types of equipment to be used, but not the content or message.

V. PETS/HORSES

1. Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash not exceeding six feet in length. No domestic animal shall be permitted to run at large within any Middlesex County Parkland, either with or without a keeper, except in those areas designated for that purpose by The Director of County Parks and Recreation. Use of these areas is subject to regulations established and posted by the Office of Parks and Recreation. Pet owners shall be responsible for removing and properly disposing of fecal matter from Park property.

2. No person shall ride, drive, lead or keep a saddle horse or other animal within any Middlesex County Parkland, except on such roads, trails or areas, and subject to such regulations as The Director of County Parks and Recreation may especially designate. In such an occasion, no horse shall be unbridled or left unattended in any unenclosed area, and should not be hitched to any tree or shrub in a manner that may cause damage.

VI. REFUSE

1. No person shall leave bottles, broken glass, ashes, waste paper or other rubbish, as defined in Section I, within Middlesex County Parkland, except in a properly provided receptacle designated for that purpose.

2. No person shall bring into Middlesex County Parkland any household garbage or rubbish or other debris for the purpose of disposing those items in County provided receptacles intended for use by park patrons.

3. No person shall throw or place any dirt, stone, rock debris, foreign substance or rubbish into or upon any Middlesex County Parkland or in any lake, river or lagoon within or bordering upon land of Middlesex County Parkland.

4. No person shall throw, cast, lay, drop or discharge into or allow to remain in the water of any Middlesex County Parkland or any tributary, brook, stream, storm sewer or drain flowing into said waters any substance, matter or thing, which may or shall result in the pollution of said waters.

VII. NATURAL FEATURES/WILDLIFE

1. No person shall pick flowers, foliage, berries or fruit or cut, break, dig up or in any way mutilate or injure any tree, shrub, plant, fern, grass, turf, railing, seat, picnic bench, fence, structure or any other object within any Middlesex County Parkland.

2. No person shall bring into or upon Middlesex County Parkland any tree, shrub or plant or any newly plucked branch or portion of a tree shrub or plant.

3. No person shall dig up or remove any dirt, stone, rock or other substance whatever, make any excavation, quarry sand or stone or lay or set off any blast or cause or assist in doing any of these things within any Middlesex County Parkland.

4. No person shall remove or cut firewood, regardless of whether the tree or wood is dead, fallen, diseased or otherwise from any Middlesex County Parkland.

5. No person shall feed any animal, or fish any food or other substance excepting such food or substance expressly permitted by the Office of Parks and Recreation.

6. No person shall feed any waterfowl any food or any substance at any time in Middlesex County Parkland.

VIII. FIRES/FIREWORKS

1. No person shall build, light or maintain a fire within Middlesex County Parkland, except in picnic area grills, established campsites or a fireplace provided, maintained or designated for such purpose by the Director of County Parks and Recreation. Picnic grills shall only contain charcoal fires.

2. In cases where permits are issued for a group or family picnic and said group chooses to use a caterer, the use of gas fire will be permitted within the confines of the caterer's portable facility when proper insurance documents are provided to the Office of Parks and Recreation.

3. No person shall discard any cigar, cigarette, or lighted match carelessly or in a manner that may start a fire.

4. No person shall possess, discharge or set off within any Middlesex County Parkland any firecrackers, torpedoes, rockets or other fireworks.

IX. HUNTING/FISHING

1. No person shall discharge any weapon or firearm within or into any Middlesex County Parkland. No person shall bring or be in possession of any pistol or revolver or objects upon which can be loaded or blank cartridges may be used. Nor shall any person be in possession of any rifle, shotgun, fowling piece, air gun, spring gun, slingshot, bow or any other instrument weapon in which the propelling force is a spring or air, excepting the lawful uses of such weapons at places and times prescribed by the Director of the Office of Parks and Recreation.

2. No person shall hunt, molest, take chase, trap, capture, hold, remove, injure or kill any animal, reptile or bird or disturb its habitat within any Middlesex County Parkland except in portions of Middlesex County Parkland, which may be open to hunting and/or fishing as prescribed by the Office of Parks and Recreation. The use of portions of Middlesex County Parkland open to hunting and/or fishing is subject to regulations established and posted by the Office of Parks and Recreation and to N.J. State Fish and Wildlife Laws.

X. RESTRICTED USES AND AREAS

1. No person shall enter upon any portion of Middlesex County Parkland where persons are prohibited from going by direction of the Director of County Parks and Recreation as indicated by sign or notice. Nor shall any person participate in an activity that is prohibited as indicated by sign or notice.

2. No person shall coast with hand sleds, bobs, carts, skateboards or other vehicles or wheels or runners or use radio-controlled devices such as, but not limited to, boats, remotely piloted aircraft, model airplanes, drones and cars except in areas and during times designated and posted for this purpose by the Director of County Parks and Recreation.

3. No person shall transport, use or operate motorized or mechanical carnival rides and dunk tanks in a Park or Recreation Area. The use of certain forced air rides for group use requires written permission by the Director of County Parks and Recreation.

4. No person shall throw, cast, catch, kick or strike any baseball, golf ball, football or basketball or any object within any Middlesex County Parkland except in areas designated and posted for this purpose by the Director of County Parks and Recreation. Users of these areas are bound by regulations established and posted by the Office of Parks and Recreation.

5. The Board of Chosen Freeholders adopts a resolution each year setting forth required fees for specific facilities and park areas. Individuals or groups using such facilities or areas must be in possession of the appropriate permit or pass issued by the Office of Parks and Recreation. A permit to do any act shall authorize the holder to do so only in strict accordance to the terms and conditions stated in the permit. Any violation by the holder or his agents or employees of the terms and conditions shall constitute grounds for revocation of the permit by the Director of Parks and Recreation, whose action is deemed final. In a case where a permit is revoked, all monies paid for or on account for the permit shall, in the option of the Director of Parks and Recreation, be forfeited and retained. The holder of a permit, including his agents or employees, who violates the terms and conditions shall be jointly and severally liable to the Office of Parks and Recreation for all the damages and/or loss suffered by it in excess of the money so forfeited and retained; but neither such forfeiture and retention by the Office of Parks and Recreation of the whole or any part of monies nor the recovery or collection

for such damages or both shall in any manner relieve the holder or his agents or employees from liability to punishment for any violation of any provision of any Middlesex County Rules and Regulations.

6. No person shall bathe in any pond, stream, river or other body of water within or bordering any Middlesex County Parkland unless it has been designated and posted for this purpose by the Director of County Parks and Recreation.

7. No person shall use private boats, canoes or kayaks on any streams, lakes, ocean, or body of water within or bordering any Middlesex County Parkland unless it has been designated for such use and posted for launching private boats, canoes or kayaks by the Office of Parks and Recreation. When the use of private boats, canoes or kayaks is permitted, one shall first obtain a permit issued by the Director of County Parks and Recreation and is bound by regulations established and posted by the Office of Parks and Recreation.

8. No person shall ice skate in any County park lake or other water body except in areas and times specified by the Office of Parks and Recreation and under the monitoring of the Office of Parks and Recreation personnel.

9. The use of manned powerless flying objects or devices, either for landing or taking off, shall not be permitted in any Middlesex County Parkland unless it has been specifically designated and posted for this purpose or special permission has been granted by the Director of County Parks and Recreation.

10. No person shall solicit alms or contributions for any purpose.

11. No raw meat, fish or poultry shall be brought to any county park and cooked on any cooking apparatus unless such meat, fish or poultry is grille ready.

12. No person shall use any tobacco products, which include but are not limited to smoking (e.g. cigarettes, pipes, cigars, e-cigarettes, vaporize cigarettes, etc.) and/or use smokeless tobacco (e.g. snuff, chew, etc.) within any building, or within 25 feet of the following: playgrounds, athletic courts, athletic fields, off-leash dog areas, and buildings. Nor shall any person use any tobacco product in a manner that creates a nuisance or unsafe condition within County Parkland.

XI. COMMERCIAL USES

1. No person shall engage in any commercial enterprise including but not limited to the offering of services, soliciting,

selling or peddling any liquids or edibles for human consumption or distribute circulars or hawk, peddle or vend any goods, ware or merchandise within any Middlesex County Parkland, except as provided by action of the Director of County Parks and Recreation.

2. No person shall cut, carve, paint, mark, paste or fasten on any tree, fence, wall, building, monument or other object within any Middlesex County Parkland any bill, advertisement or inscription. Nor shall any person distribute, cast, throw or place any handbill, pamphlet, circular, advertisement or notice of any kind within any Middlesex County Parkland.

3. No person shall tell fortunes, play at games of chance or use any gambling device within any Middlesex County Parkland except as provided by special permission of the Director of County Parks and Recreation.

XII. VEHICLES/PARKING

1. All provisions of the New Jersey State Motor Vehicle Act with regard to equipment, lights, licensees, brakes, operation, etc., will apply in the parks and will be strictly enforced, with also such further restrictions as may be herein stated.

2. No person shall use any portion of Middlesex County Parkland for the purpose of way except drives, parking areas, roadways, paths, walks and trails established for such purpose by the Director of County Parks and Recreation. Footpaths, trails or walks established for pedestrian travel shall not be used for motor vehicle travel. The use of mopeds or motorized bikes will be limited to roadways, drives and parking areas as established and opened to all other vehicular traffic. Electric-Powered Mobility Devices are permitted for use in designated areas as established and posted by the Office of Parks and Recreation.

3. No person shall drive or propel, or cause to be driven or propelled, along or over any road within Middlesex County Parkland any vehicle at a rate of speed greater than twenty-five (25) miles per hour or the speed limits as established by the Director of County Parks and Recreation, and indicated by speed limit signs erected along the right-of-way.

4. Whenever any Park Ranger or other park representative shall indicate or direct by gesture or otherwise, that the speed of a vehicle shall be checked or stopped, or its course altered, the driver thereof shall immediately obey such directions.

5. No person shall drive or propel, or cause to be driven or propelled, along or over any road, parkway, drive or parking area within any Middlesex County Parkland any motor vehicle in a careless manner or in a manner to endanger the life, limb or property of pedestrians or the drivers or occupants of other vehicles or any other person within any Middlesex County Parkland. The motor vehicle operator and the motor vehicle operated within Middlesex County Parkland shall be in compliance with New Jersey State Motor Vehicle License and Safety Laws.

6. No person shall park or store any motorcar, motorcycle, bicycle, wagon or other vehicle within any Middlesex County Parkland except in areas designated and posted for such purposes. Parking areas and thoroughfares are limited to use by park patrons only and for the purpose of driving to park a vehicle.

7. No person shall set or place or cause to be set or placed, any goods, wares or merchandise or property of any kind as to obstruct travel within any Middlesex County Parkland.

8. No person shall enter any part of Middlesex County Parkland or park roads with a commercial vehicle or a vehicle with a gross weight in excess of 5 tons except in the service of or by permission of the Director of County Parks and Recreation.

9. No person shall use park drives or parkways within any Middlesex County Parkland for the purpose of demonstrating any vehicle or for the purpose of instructing another to drive or operate any vehicle or for learning to drive or operate any vehicle.

10. No person shall attempt to stop, or signal any vehicle for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of such vehicle.

11. The cleaning, waxing or repairing of vehicles is not permitted within any Middlesex County Parkland, except in the cases of absolute emergency.

12. No person shall cause or permit a vehicle in tow to enter any Middlesex County Parkland or proceed therein, except in the case of a breakdown or disabled vehicle, vehicle may be towed to the nearest exit. Nor shall any person operate or drive a vehicle containing any person or object projecting or hanging outside of or beyond the side or rear of said vehicle.

13. Nothing contained in this Vehicle/Parking Rule and Regulation shall apply to the vehicles, trucks and apparatus of a fire department, police department or ambulance, or to emergency vehicles of the

Office of Parks and Recreation when responding for emergency work in case of fire, accident, public disaster, impending danger or emergency.

XIII. DISORDERLY PERSONS

1. No person or group of persons shall engage in such loitering conduct as will clearly cause an immediate, actual physical violent reaction from any person or persons, which violent action will cause a threat to the peace and order of the public.

A. Nor shall any person or group of persons engage in such loitering conduct which shall disturb a person of ordinary sensibilities as to cause such person to react immediately in such a way as to threaten by physical violence the peace and order of the public.

B. Nor shall any person or group of persons engage in such loitering conduct which obstructs free passage of pedestrians at, in or near any building, parking lot or vehicle or the free passage of vehicles at, in or near any building, parking lot or vehicles.

C. Nor shall any person or group of persons engage in such loitering conduct which obstructs the free passage of persons at or near any walkway or pathway;

D. Nor shall any person or group of persons engage in such loitering conduct, which will obstruct, molest or interfere with any person lawfully in or enjoying the park.

2. Where there is conduct violative of section XIII (1) or any part thereof, there must, in addition, be a refusal by the persons engaged in such conduct to obey an order by any agents, officers or employees of the Office of Parks and Recreation or Municipality to move on before a charge under these regulations may be prosecuted.

3. No person shall resist any agent or officer of the Office of Parks and Recreation or Municipality in the discharge of his/her duty, or fail or refuse to obey any lawful command of any such agent, officer or employee, or in any way interfere with or hinder or prevent any such agent, officer or employee from discharging his duty, or in any manner assist or give aid to any person in custody to escape or attempt to escape from custody, or rescue or attempt to rescue any person when in such custody.

4. No person shall falsely represent or impersonate any agent, officer or employee or pretend to be an agent, officer or

employee of the Office of Parks and Recreation.

5. No person shall interfere with or in any manner hinder any agent, employee or officer of the Office of Parks and Recreation or the Municipality while engaged in constructing, repairing or caring for any park property or interfere with any improvements being made within or about Middlesex County Parkland.

6. No person shall remain within any Middlesex County Parkland who does not abide by conditions adopted and posted by the Office of Parks and Recreation for the preservation of good order and the protection of property within Middlesex County Parkland; and no person shall remain within Middlesex County Parkland who does not abide by the instructions and directions of duly authorized officers or agents of the Municipality or Office of Parks and Recreation in the lawful performance of their duties. Any person directed by an agent or officer of the Office of Parks and Recreation or Municipality to leave Middlesex County Parkland shall do so promptly and peaceably.

7. No person shall harass, obstruct, molest, assault or interfere with any person lawfully within Middlesex County Parkland or resist, obstruct, molest, assault or interfere with any agent, employee or officer of the Office of Parks and Recreation or the Municipality.

8. No person shall use threatening, abusive, boisterous, insulting or indecent language or gesture within any Middlesex County Parkland, nor shall any oration, harangue, public demonstration or any nuisance be made.

9. No person shall possess any weapon capable of lethal use or of inflicting serious bodily injury within any Middlesex County Parkland.

10. No person shall appear in the park in a state of nudity or commit, perform or engage in lewd, lascivious, obscene, illicit, carnal or indecent act or behavior, and no person shall make any indecent exposure of his or her person.

11. No person shall cut, carve, paint, mark, paste or fasten any inscription or depiction on, or damage by any means, any tree, fence, wall, building, monument or other object within a County Park or Recreational Area.

XIV. HOURS OF OPERATION

1. OPENING HOURS: All parks will open at sunrise as defined by the U.S. Weather Bureau for the New Brunswick, New

Jersey area, unless otherwise specified or designated by signs.

2. CLOSING HOURS: All parks will close at sunset, except where specific closing hours are designated; U.S. Weather Bureau for the New Brunswick, New Jersey area to define sunset.

3. No person shall, without permission from a park ranger, enter into, remain or allow their vehicle to remain within any Middlesex County Parkland except during the hours the Park or Recreation Area is open to the general public.

4. Any vehicle remaining in any Middlesex County Parkland for more than 48 hours without permission of the Director of Parks and Recreation or their Designee shall be deemed abandoned and be subject to removal by an authorized County Towing Agent through the County Sherriff's Office.

XV. PENALTIES

Any person found guilty by a Municipal Court Judge of violating any of the provisions of these Rules and Regulations shall be subject to a fine, as set forth on the attached Schedule, imprisonment for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days, or both, as shall be determined by said Municipal Court Judge, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:24-3